

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 08049 081025 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 ACDA-19 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 DPW-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 EB-11 IGA-02 /167 W

----- 002710

R 081740 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1340

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8049

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASUP MILI VS

SUBJECT: SPOT REPORT

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA 8 MAY 73 REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0113

SUBJ: SPOT REPORT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASUP MILI VS

1. POLOFF TAY NINH REPORTS THAT ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS DURING
THE PAST WEEK GVN OFFICIALS IN TAY NINH HAVE CLAIMED THAT SERIOUS
PROBLEMS OF RESUPPLY WERE HAVING AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON TROOP
MORALE.

COLONEL HUYEN, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE ARVN 25 TH INFANTRY DIVISION,
CLAIMED THAT LIMITED SUPPLY OF GASOLINE AND ARTILLERY AMMUNITION
HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE COMBAT READINESS OF HIS TROOPS. HUYEN
SAID MANY UNITS HAD TO WALK TO THEIR AO'S SINCE THERE WAS NOT
ENOUGH GASOLINE TO USE APC'S OR 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS. FURTHERMORE,
LIMITED SUPPLIES OF ARTILLERY AMMUNITION ON HAND AT FORWARD
POSITIONS, HUYEN MAINTAINED, WOULD ALLOW THE 25 TH TO USE ITS
ARTILLERY FREELY AGAINST AN ENEMY GENERAL OFFENSIVE " ONLY DURING
THE FIRST NIGHT" WITHOUT RESUPPLY. HUYEN FEARED THAT IF RESUPPLY
WERE THEN DELAYED, AS IT MIGHT WELL BE BY ENEMY ACTION ALONG LOCS,
THE DIVISION MIGHT BE UNABLE TO HOLD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 08049 081025 Z

WM IN GENERAL, HUYEN SAID THE PARIS AGREEMENT HAD ALLOWED THE ENEMY TO REFIT AND RESUPPLY SO THAT NOW THE ENEMY WAS TOTALLY PREPARED. THE GVN FORCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE CONSTANTLY INHIBITED AND LIMITED IN WHAT THEY COULD DO. THIS SITUATION HAD RESULTED IN A STATE OF QUESTIONABLE COMBAT READINESS OF GVN TACTICAL UNITS. VP INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS REALIZE THIS, AND, DESPITE THE BEST EFFORTS OF THEIR SUPERIORS, TROOP MORALE WAS SUFFERING.

3. THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN FOR ALL MILITARY UNITS STATIONED IN TAY NINH SAID THAT NOT ONLY WAS THE SUPPLY OF GAS INADEQUATE TO CARRY OUT OFFICIAL MISSIONS, BUT THAT THE QUALITY OF THE GAS HAD BEEN VITIATED BY MIXING IT WITH OIL. THE CHAPLAIN ASCRIBED THIS SITUATION, AT LEAST IN PART, TO CORRUPTION IN THE GVN SUPPLY OPERATION. IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE, HE SAID, THAT GAS AND DIESEL FUEL WERE BEING SOLD TO THE VC/NVA AT HIGH PRICES. FURTHERMORE, DESPITE LIMITED GAS AVAILABLE FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO SHORTAGE OF GAS FOR THE VEHICLES OF SEVERAL HIGH RANKING OFFICERS ENGAGED IN PRIVATE ERRANDS FOR THEIR OWNERS. THE CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN CLAIMED THAT MANY INDIVIDUAL GVN SOLDIERS WERE WELL AWARE OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SHORTAGE OF GAS FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS HAD AFFECTED THE COMBAT READINESS OF THEIR UNITS. MORALE, AS A RESULT, WAS SUFFERING. (COMMENT: THESE STATEMENTS ARE THE FIRST SCREAMS OF HONEST OFFICIALS WHO REALIZE THAT PROGRAMS ARE SUFFERING WHILE WASTE AND DISHONESTY CONTINUE. THE U. S. RESPONSE, IN FORMER YEARS, WOULD HAVE BEEN A CALL FOR MORE GAS AND ARTILLERY SHELLS. THE EFFECT OF INCREASED SUPPLY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO ALLOW THE DISHONESTY AND WASTE TO CONTINUE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT WE FOLLOW THIS PROBLEM, BUT DO NOTHING. PERHAPS THE GVN SYSTEM, CHALLENGED AS IT IS BY THE COMMUNISTS, WILL PERCEIVE THAT WASTE AND CORRUPTION, NOW, THREATENS ITS VERY EXISTENCE. END COMMENT.) WALKINSHAW
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON08049
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730539/aaaaikzg.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980107
Subject: SPOT REPORT
TAGS: ASUP, MILI
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005